Funds allocated for irrigation projects

3787. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared certain proposals to provide 100 per cent loan for irrigation projects in the States;

(b) if so, the amount of loan provided to the States for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the places in these States where irrigation projects are likely to be set up and criteria adopted by these State Governments in choosing such places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) 13 major/medium irrigation projects proposed by 5 States have been included under the Fast Track Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and provided 100% Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to complete the projects in one year (two working seasons). The first instalment of Rs. 472.86 crores has been released in March, 2002. State-wise details are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

SI. No.	State	CLA released under Fast Track Programme during 2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	176.67
2.	Gujarat	94.00
3.	Madhya Pradesh	98.03
4.	Orissa	64.43
5.	Uttar Pradesh	39.73
	TOTAL:	472.86

Propogation of rain water harvesting

3788. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether second water convention was recently held in the capital depicting the attainment of water harvesting plan in the desert State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether rain water harvesting has enabled the villagers to draw water from handpumps in some districts and enabling them to grow two cash crops a year;

(c) whether such plans at Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh) have also given good results; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to propogate such ventures to other needy areas throughout the country so that the villagers could reap the benefits of water harvesting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of second water convention held in the Capital depicting attainment of water harvesitng plan in the desert State of Rajasthan. However, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has implemented a scheme on "Studies of Recharge of Ground Water" on pilot basis during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, 18 projects have been approved in Jaipur, Udaipur, Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan. The demonstration of these schemes have proved that the water harvesting schemes are beneficial even in low rainfall regions.

(c) No project has been approved for the district of Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh under the above pilot scheme.

(d) Public need to be made aware, motivated and involved for successful implementation of water harvesting programmes. With a view to popularise the water harvesting, the CGWB has approved 174 schemes in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan under the above mentioned pilot scheme which has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an allocation of Rs. 200.00 crore.

Conference of National Water Resources Council

3789. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council held a Conference presided by the Prime Minister in the first week of April, 2002;

(b) if so, the main features of the conference;

(c) whether any consensus has been arrived at the conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?